

# The Romulus News

MARCH 7, 2003 – MARCH 20, 2003

"the little paper"

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 16

## Timely Tidbits ...

### Open House Honors Retiring Librarian

An open house celebrating the retirement of Romulus Public Library director Diane Hazen will be held at the library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) on Friday, March 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, please call the library at 734-942-7589.

### Basketball Tryouts

The Romulus Panthers will hold free tryouts for boys age 14 and under at Cory Elementary School (located on Wayne Road north of Wick) on Saturday, March 8, beginning promptly at 10:30 a.m. Coaches are Roger Williams and Sterling Buckley.

For more information, please contact the Romulus Recreation Center at 734-942-6852.

### Kickboxing Class Set

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation invites adults only to sign up for its spring kickboxing class, which will meet at Romulus High School from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday from April 1 through May 29. Fees are \$40 per person for one day per week, \$63 for two days per week, or \$7 per walk-in class. Preregistration is required.

For further information, please contact the Romulus Recreation Center at 734-942-6852.

### Late Registration for Youth Gymnastics

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation still has a few openings in its Tumblebunnies gymnastics class, which began March 4 and will continue until April 15. Classes meet at the Recreation Center (located at 36515 Bibbins) each Tuesday according to the following schedule:

- ages 3 to 4: 6 to 6:45 p.m.,
- ages 5 to 7: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.,
- ages 8+: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost for the entire session is \$60.

For more information, please contact the Romulus Recreation Center at 734-942-6852. □

## Eagles Set Sights on District Championship



Coach Nate Oats (left) and the Romulus High School Eagles varsity basketball team celebrate their victory over the Inkster Vikings to win the Mega League's Red/White Division championship.

Romulus High School basketball coach Nate Oats has high hopes that, by the time you read this, his team will be well on its way to winning a district championship.

The Eagles became Mega League Red/White Division champs on February 28, when they defeated the Inkster Vikings, 66-64, with a dramatic last-second shot by star Ron Coleman. The victory sent Romulus into the district playoffs, where they emerged from the first round with a 70-69 win over Garden City on Monday. The results of the Eagles' Wednesday match-up against Belleville High School was not known as of press time, but a victory would advance Romulus to Friday's final against the winner of the John Glenn/Wayne Memorial semifinal. All games will be played at RHS. (Call 734-532-1000 for more info.)

Coach Oats was optimistic about his team's chances against Belleville.

"It's going to be tough, no doubt about it, because Belleville has a great team that has been ranked in the Top 10," he said. "We lost both our games against them during the regular season, but the one we played at Belleville was really close. If we play our best, and build on the energy of our six-game winning streak, I think we have a definite shot."

If the Eagles do manage to advance to Friday's finals, they'll have their work cut out for them.

"Our only game against Wayne was an 18-point loss, but it was the first match of the season," said Oats. "We've

improved a great deal since then."

Oats added that Romulus has not played against John Glenn, but acknowledged that the school would be a formidable foe since it defeated Wayne during the regular season. □

## Increased Landfill Inspections Planned

State Senators Raymond E. Basham (D-Taylor) and Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) are praising Steven Chester, the new director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), who announced, during a recent appropriations subcommittee meeting on environmental quality, that he is putting together a plan to increase inspections at the state's landfills.

"I'm glad to see that our new director is coming in with a plan in place and initiatives to address this important issue," said Brater. "Both Senator Basham and I have introduced bills to regulate waste disposal in our state. We will be working closely with Mr. Chester, the Governor, and our House and Senate colleagues to enact legislation that will

clean up our landfills and stem the tide of trash being shipped into our state."

Chester said that inspections are currently being done on a quarterly basis, but he would like to make them more frequent and include surprise visits. One purpose of the DEQ inspections is to check the landfills for prohibited items such as car batteries, hazardous waste, yard waste, and used motor oil.

"I'm thrilled with Mr. Chester's first initiative," said Basham. "His leadership on the issue of waste disposal in Michigan is critical, and increasing inspections is a great first step."

Senators Basham and Brater both serve on the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. □



## The Crime Blotter

Officer Damian Hull of the Romulus Police Department issued the following "Crime Blotter" report on February 24.

\* \* \*

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**  
14800 block of Huron River Drive

Graffiti was spray-painted on exterior walls.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**  
37300 block of Eureka

Graffiti was spray-painted on exterior walls.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**  
intersection of Ozga/I-94

Graffiti was spray-painted on an overpass.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**  
37300 block of Goddard

Graffiti was spray-painted on exterior walls.

• **Larceny**

34000 block of Pinewood Circle  
A Sony camcorder was stolen.

• **Larceny**

9500 block of Biddle  
A purse was stolen.

• **Impersonating a Police Officer**

8450 Merriman (Speedway Station)  
A female identified herself as a police officer after employees confronted her about pumping gas without prepaying.

The female made the same claim to responding officers, asserting that she was a "top-secret undercover Harper Woods police officer." She was arrested by RPD patrol.

• **Stolen Vehicle**

6000 block of West Maple  
A 1994 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

• **Larceny**

8000 Merriman  
Passenger-side wheels were stolen from a 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix.

• **Larceny**

9300 block of Hannan  
A pickup cap was stolen.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**

30600 block of Flynn  
A turn signal was broken and bleach was poured on the seats of a 2000 Dodge Neon.

• **Stolen Vehicle**

6000 block of Washington  
A 1988 Lincoln was stolen.

• **Stolen Vehicle**

6000 block of Washington  
A 1993 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen.

• **Counterfeit Currency**

30795 Eureka (Subway)  
A suspect attempted to purchase food with a counterfeit \$20 bill. The suspect was arrested by RPD. □

## The Romulus News

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The folks at Ecorse Quality Electrical Service have returned to their original home at 29653 Ecorse Road, which has been attractively renovated following a fire that occurred two years ago.

## Guest Commentary

### Failed Voucher Language Resurrected To Distract From Bush's Broken Promises

by Melvin Butch Hollowell, chairman of  
the Michigan Democratic Party

Given the Republican Party's recent attacks on the state's public education system, I am urging Michigan GOP chair Betsy Devos to play a positive role in educating our children.

President Bush made big promises to schools all across the country, but now the White House is spending almost \$10 billion less than the President originally promised to educate our children. The Michigan Republican Party has fallen back on the tired, divisive rhetoric of vouchers – which take taxpayer dollars away from public schools – when they should be using their substantial influence to urge the President to keep the promise he made and stop shortchanging students and parents.

In the 2000 election, Michigan voters rejected a voucher proposal – supported by the Michigan GOP – to take taxpayer dollars away from public education and use them to pay tuition at private schools. The Republican Party's recent attacks on public education in Michigan echoed the same negative tone of the failed voucher campaign.

Negative Republican attacks on public education do an injustice to parents, students, and dedicated, professional educators all across Michigan. The positive thing to do would be to get President Bush to make good on his broken promise, but instead the Michigan Republican Party is harkening back to a discredited political agenda in an attempt to distract us from the failures of President Bush. □

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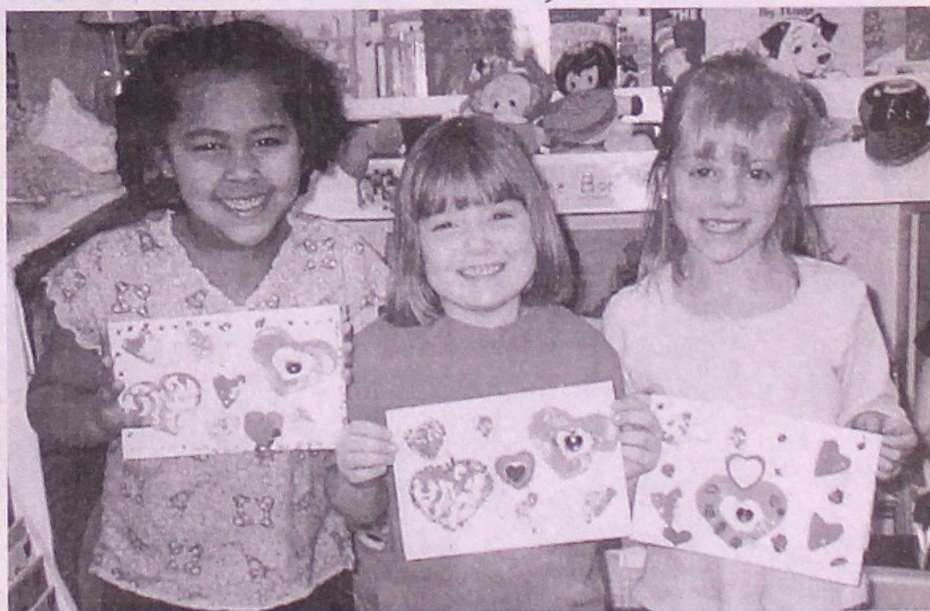
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or call Dr. Linda Atkinson at  
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### Valentines for Soldiers, Senior Citizens



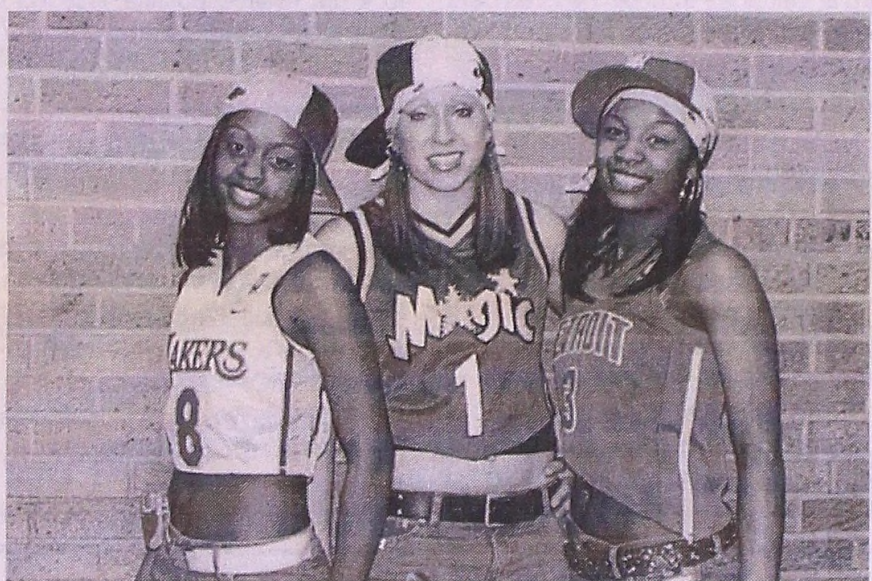
(From left) Sydney Pree, Katelyn White, and Chelsea Gaddis of Halecreek Elementary proudly display Valentine's Day cards that they made for local senior citizens. Their efforts are representative of dozens of holiday greetings that kindergartners and multi-age classroom students made and sent to seniors as well as to men and women serving in the American armed forces overseas. The project – organized by service-learning coordinator Kathy Hurst – did double duty by strengthening students' writing skills while bringing joy to others.



## RHS "Coming Home"



(From left) Nicole Liendo, Lauren Romak, Tiffiney Ramsay, and Neddy Peña brought a hint of Hawaii to Romulus High School's annual "Coming Home" dance on February 15.



Sporting retro-style outfits were (from left) LaToya Pillow, Meghan Conway, and Della Hamby.



This year's Coming Home King and Queen – Ron Coleman and Rebecca Thornton – were chosen by student vote at the dance.

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## Merchants Provide MEAP Incentives



Among the Middle School students who won \$5 gift certificates for perfect attendance during the MEAP testing period were: (from left) front – Kyle Timmbrooks (Captain Nemo's), Jasmine Hollingsworth (Romulus House Restaurant), and Monique Walker (Leonardo's Ristorante); back – Jevon Lee (Video Fox), Courtney Ramsey (Video Fox), Heather Doyle (Romulus Lanes), Kourtney Hamilton (Pizza Barn), and Lance Rusan (Romulus House Restaurant).

The generosity of many local merchants allowed Romulus Middle School to offer enticing incentives to students who maintained perfect attendance during the recent Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) testing period. RMS parent coordinators Cynthia and Glenn Hensley developed and implemented the program, which involved soliciting donations from area businesses and then distributing the gifts through a lottery-type process.

Merchants that made donations (most of which were \$5 gift certificates) to the MEAP incentive program included Captain Nemo's Sub-

marine Sandwiches, Cottage Inn Pizza, Countrywood Florist, Dave's & Company Barber Shop and Hair Salon, Leonardo's Ristorante, Pizza Barn, Romulus Flowers & Gifts, Romulus Hardware, Romulus House Restaurant, Romulus Lanes, and Video Fox.

Both principal Mel Kimbrough and assistant principal Chris Powers were most appreciative of the donations. Kimbrough noted, "The MEAP puts a lot of pressure on everyone, but the incentive program really got the students' attention and helped to provide a positive atmosphere for the annual state test." □

## Weimer Samples The Big Apple

When Romulus High School senior Kelli Weimer sampled The Big Apple during a stay at the Manhattan Hilton Hotel, she found that she liked the taste – and she's ready for seconds.

Weimer – who was in New York City to participate in the annual Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week extravaganza – already has several years of modeling experience. She got her start by attending a Model Search U.S.A. event in Columbus, Ohio.

"Model Search U.S.A. shows young ladies and men from across the country how to prepare for the rigors of a modeling career," Weimer said. "Those who attend also get to demonstrate their skills on the fashion runway, and meet representatives from various modeling agencies."

The Mercedes-Benz show was a big success for Weimer, who received 10 agency callbacks – an unusually high number for model-search programs, which are often attended by more than 800 prospective models. Weimer was represented by the Traque Agency of Ferndale, the only Detroit-area agency at the event.

"I was really excited to visit New York City and model Hilfiger, Klein, Nautica, and Lourdes outfits before some of the nation's best-known fashion designers," said Weimer, who added that major magazines such as *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *In Style* were also present at her showing.

The young model's mother, Wick Elementary School secretary Becky Weimer, accompanied her on the trip.

Weimer says that her next adven-



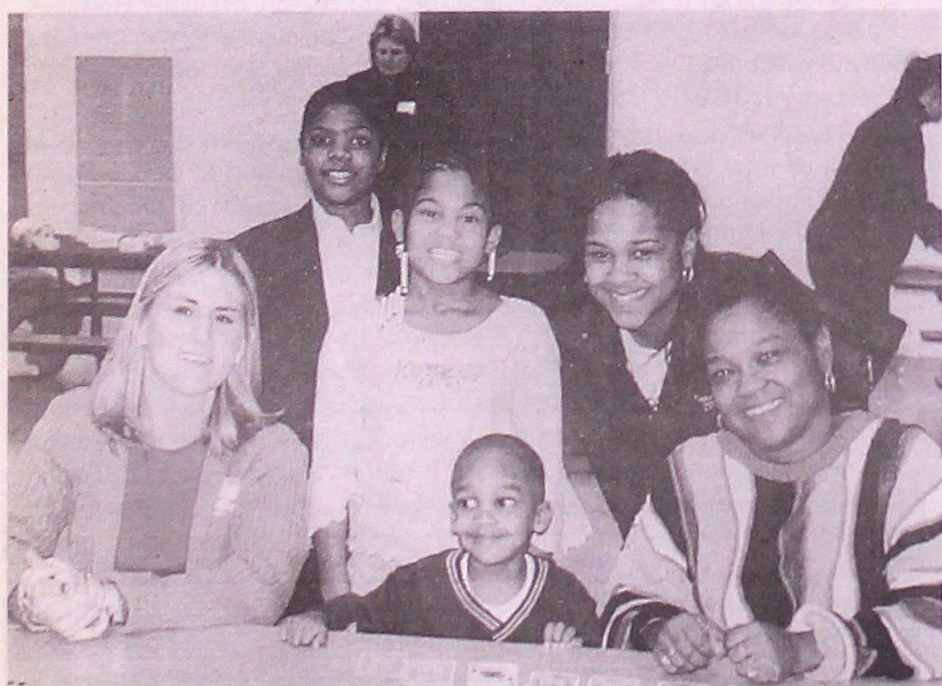
Kelli Weimer enjoyed modeling in the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week extravaganza.

ture will be a two-day trip to New York in April, when she will interview with 18 of the city's modeling agencies.

"I'll have 9 interviews per day," she explained. "The agency representatives will have an opportunity to view my portfolio and ask any questions they would like."

Weimer says that if she signs with a New York agency, she will move to the city this summer and begin her new career. □

## Merriman Elementary School Hosts "Science Night" Program



Merriman teacher Karen Terwilliger (left) enjoyed the school's recent Science Night program along with (from left) Shaquille Collins and the Harbin family – Shyla, Daeseau, mother Kim, and grandmother Vergie Montgomery.



Principal Shellie Moore (back, center) and new Board of Education trustee Niema White (back, right) looked on as students (from left) Mary Kelly, Breanna Kelly, Courtney Thompson, Carmelina Ghanem, and Michelle Kisia worked with microscopes.



## Cory Dinner-Dance



Cory Elementary principal Phyllis Adkins welcomed those who attended the school's recent dinner-dance, including Miguel Chacon, pastor of the Jesus Light Christian Church of Detroit; his granddaughter and daughter (respectively), Lorane Rendon and Ruby Chacon; and Darnell Fields.



Romulus High School's Jazz Band – under the direction of the district's music department chairman, Henry James – provided some first-class entertainment for the dinner-dance.



Many Cory staff members attended the event, and some even brought their children. They included (from left) third-grade teacher Rochelle Watson (holding Myles Askew), second-grade teacher Rhonda Askew (with children Imani and Markus in front), sixth-grade teacher Simona Miller (holding daughter Zaria), and CSRD grant program assistant Andrea Maxey (holding son Justin).

## Community Calendar

- **Open Swimming** – Open swimming continues to be offered at Romulus High School's new pool complex (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) according to the following schedule: **Adults Only** (Mondays from 6 to 7 a.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 a.m.), **Seniors (age 60+) Only** (Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.), **Teens (ages 13–17) Only** (Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.), **All Ages** (Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.), and **Family Swimming** (Fridays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.). To participate, all swimmers *must* preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education Office, located at 39000 Superior. Cost for residents is \$3 per session (\$2 for senior citizens) or \$60 for an all-year pass (\$40 for senior citizens). Family passes – a real bargain! – are available to Romulus residents for just \$100 per year. For more information, call 734-532-1956.
- **Women's Bible Study** – The New Metro Church Women's Ministry invites women of all ages to attend its upcoming Women's Bible Study, which will meet at the church (located at 20051 Metro Drive, New Boston – exit 13 on the west side of I-275) from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. each Thursday from March 6 through May 15. The topic for the study program will be "Breaking Free" – an in-depth study based on the Book of Isaiah. Teacher Beth Moore says, "A Christian is held captive by anything that hinders the abundant and effective Spirit-filled life God has in store for her." All faiths are welcome. (Note: A \$15 registration fee covers the cost of the Bible Study's workbook.) For more information, or to register, call the church: 734-753-5710.
- **St. Aloysius School's Lenten Fish Fries** – The Parents' Club at St. Aloysius Catholic School will host its sixth annual Lenten Fish Fry series at the school (located at 37200 Neville Road, behind the church) from 4:30 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out) each Friday from March 7 through April 11. The menu will include fish or shrimp, potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dessert, and a beverage. Cost is \$7 for ages 10 and up (\$6 for senior citizens), and \$3 for children under 10. For more information, call 734-941-3340.
- **St. Paul Hosts Special Services** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston, invites the public to attend the following special services: **Lenten Midweek** (Wednesdays, March 12 through April 9, at 7 p.m.), **Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion** (April 17 at 7 p.m.), **Good Friday** (April 18 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.), **Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion** (April 20 at 6:30 a.m.), and **Easter Morning Festival with Holy Communion** (April 20 at 10 a.m.).
- **Ficano Will Speak at Chamber Luncheon** – Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano will be the guest speaker at the next luncheon of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, March 18. Preregistration is required. For reservations or further information, please call 734-326-4290.
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting: March 19) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall). New members are always welcome. For more information about the club or its reading list, call the library (734-942-7589) during its regular business hours.
- **Calling All Attorneys!** – The 34th District Court of Romulus is inviting local attorneys to attend a "Bench Bar" at the court (located at 11131 South Wayne Road, near Romulus City Hall) on Thursday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. For more information on this "meet and greet," call 734-941-4462, ext. 203.
- **"Sons of the Desert" Celebrate Laurel & Hardy Films** – The Detroit-area chapter of Sons of the Desert, a Laurel & Hardy fan club, will meet at Mama Mia's Restaurant (located at 27770 Plymouth Road, west of Inkster, in Livonia) on Thursday, March 20. (Parking is available across the street in the west lot; enter through the banquet hall doors.) Dinner will be served between 6 and 8 p.m.; films and fun will follow. For more information, contact Frank by telephone (734-955-2487) or by e-mail ([rozlaf@aol.com](mailto:rozlaf@aol.com)).
- **Eating-disorder Support Group** – People who suffer from disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive eating can attend support-group meetings at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2550 Edsel Drive, Trenton) each Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 734-324-3089.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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# Barth Spirit Week Raises \$1,770 for Local Charities



Students taking part in Barth's Pajama Day event, which benefited the Helping Hand of Romulus, included: (from left) front – Jessica Sylvester, Holly Schonscheck, Michael Sanden, Mariah Johnson, and Ryan Wilkerson; back – Quindai Christopher, Chelsea Tyree, Kelly Mays, Samantha Bankey, Alexis Moore, Kanaya Williams, and Tanesha Harris-Hill.

Barth Elementary's Student Council joined physical-education teacher Sheila Stasak and sixth-grade teacher Rob Baty to sponsor the school's annual Charity Spirit Week. Each day of the event called for the students to participate in a special activity to benefit a particular local charity.

The week-long drive featured the following activities:

- Crazy Hair Day (Monday) – raised \$312.49 for the Leukemia Society;
- Pajama Day (Tuesday) – raised \$254.30 plus 128 food items for the Helping Hand of Romulus;
- Backward/Inside-out Day (Wednesday) – raised \$341.58 for the Romulus Foundation;

- Favorite Team Day (Thursday) – raised \$390.17 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation; and
- Jump Rope for Heart Day (Friday) – raised \$450.59 for the American Heart Foundation.

Students who contributed donations on each day received a "good citizenship" pin, and students got to attend a special assembly at which the donations were presented to representatives of the charitable organizations.

Teachers Baty and Stasak, as well as principal Diane Golka, were very pleased with this year's overall results (which were approximately \$150 higher than the previous year's), and congratulated the children on their fine efforts. □



Sheila Stasak, co-organizer of the school's Charity Spirit Week, joined students Chris Reyna and Brianna Shreve to present a check for \$341.58 to Romulus Foundation representative Keith Johnston.



Make-A-Wish Foundation representative Kelly Stoy (second from left) was presented with a check for \$390.17 by Stasak and (from left) Sheila Reeves, Tiffany Nerone, Daijah Street, and Erica Hayes.

## Middle School Students Earn All A's



RMS students earning all A's for the entire first semester included: (from left) front – Chelsea Earby, Tranay Tanner, Leanna Pioli, Jessica Mills, and Aurielle McCauley; back – Jessica Dick, Carmen Collie, Kyle Sherwood, Matthew Destrampe, and Jennifer Dick. (Not pictured: Heather Bavol.)



Stasak and students (front, from left) Sheila Watts, Brooklyn Isbell, and Christina Dean presented American Heart Association representatives Angela Bingham (back, center) and Tracey Long (back, right) with a check for \$450.59.



# "Inspirational Voices" Celebrate Black History at Cory

Students, parents, staff members, and community guests enjoyed a performance of "Inspirational Voices" as part of Cory Elementary School's celebration of Black History. The evening of singing and recitations was put together by co-parent coordinators Janice Barden and Reverend Rita Talley.

Among the guest soloists appearing in the program were Clara Coulson, Romulus High School physical-education teacher Norbert Glover, RHS guidance secretary Ellen Bragg, and RHS students Shamara Hill and Patricia Williams. The men's and women's choirs of the First Baptist Church of Romulus shared their talents with the audience,

as did Joann Lewis, who recited the poems "Song for My Mother" and "A Prayer for My Father" by Harriet Tubman.

The program also featured handouts enumerating the contributions made by noted African-Americans, including black historian Carter G. Woodson, heart surgeon Dr. Daniel H. Williams, refrigeration engineer Frederick M. Jones, naturalist Charles H. Turner, cosmetics entrepreneur Madame C.J. Walker, research biologist Ernest Just, surgeon Dr. Louis T. Wright, research physician Dr. William A. Hinton, arthritis expert Dr. Percy Julian, skin specialist Dr. Theodore K. Lawless, and agricultural expert George Washington Carver. □



Giving magnificent performances at Cory's "Inspirational Voices" program were (front, from left) Romulus High School students Shamara Hill and Patricia Williams; (back, from left) First Baptist women's choir members Joann Lewis, Deatra Brooks, and Clara Glosson; and (from left) men's choir members Leroy Talley, James Givens, Terry Edwards, Charles Woolridge, Eric Talley, Sr., Bill Griffin, Floyd Brooks, and Michael Woods.

## Pluff Gets \$2,500 Reading Grant

Kara Pluff, a first-grade teacher at Cory Elementary School, was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education. The monies, Pluff said, will be used to help Cory students enhance their reading opportunities and skills through choosing books for their personal libraries and reading them with the significant adults in their lives.

Pluff—who, as chairperson of Cory's School Improvement Committee, has helped the team implement Math Night and Science Night programs, in addition to the Reading Initiative—says the new reading program will involve a series of three activities designed to show students that reading can be fun.

"Our first 'Read with Me' activity will be a Saturday Camp-Read-Along Book Giveaway," explained Pluff. "Students will read and be read to by teachers, parents, and River of Life Church volunteers, and will have a chance to select two books for their personal collections."

"Our second activity—a Readnic (instead of a picnic)—will be held in April under the Cory pavilion," Pluff contin-

ued. "Again, the program will feature students, teachers, parents, and volunteers reading together, as well as an opportunity for children to choose two books for their very own."

The final activity, said Pluff, will be called Reading at the Beach.

"Parent volunteers will decorate our cafeteria and gymnasium to resemble a beach, and students will be invited to bring beach clothes, towels, sunglasses, etc., to the event," she said. "They'll also have an opportunity to select two books for summer reading."

The books to be given away will be purchased through RIF (Reading Is Fundamental).

The MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education, a nonprofit foundation started in 1992, was organized to assist the educational community of Michigan by awarding mini-grants to schools and educators for innovative and original enrichment programs. Pluff first learned of the Foundation's grant program through Ernie Krumm, whose MEEMIC Insurance—Krumm Agency office is located in Canton Township. □



Among those in attendance were (from left) Janis Davis; the Reverend Rita Talley and Janice Barden, co-parent coordinators at Cory; Romulus Board of Education trustee Michael Woods; Cory principal Phyllis Adkins; Board trustee Niema White; Charles Woolridge, minister of the First Baptist Church of Romulus; and Board secretary Cheryle Buckley.



(From left) Cory principal Phyllis Adkins, first-grade teacher Kara Pluff, MEEMIC Insurance Company representative Bethann Gyorke, and MEEMIC Foundation director Kristi Mitchell celebrated the awarding of a \$2,500 MEEMIC Foundation education grant to the Cory reading program.



Romulus High School guidance secretary Ellen Bragg and physical-education teacher Norbert Glover also took part in Cory's "Inspirational Voices" program, which featured both musical performances and poetry readings.



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## "Basketball" Jones Visits Merriman



Merriman Elementary student Caniya Wilson spins a basketball on her finger with the help of Jim "Basketball" Jones – a Toledo resident who gives about 180 motivational presentations each year – during a recent "assertive discipline reward program" at the school.

## Storyteller Entertains Students

Students attending Halecreek Elementary School recently enjoyed an entertaining and educational presentation by LeRon Williams. During his performance, Williams demonstrated how African storytellers use music and action as well as audience participation to create a lively and exciting atmosphere as they tell their tales. The moral of his story: People need to work together to solve problems, and those who work

together benefit from their labors.

At the end of the program, Williams provided students with an opportunity to ask questions. The children were interested in the instruments he played, how he learned stories, and how long he had been telling them.

Williams' program was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and earned him an "A" from the students, parents, and staff at Halecreek.



First-grader Rebecca Lewicki and kindergartner Dakota Tarczynski listen as LeRon Williams plays his African instrument.



## Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to the "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-942-6852.)

### Free Tax Preparation

Now through April 9, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (by appointment only) to assist low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older) with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as forms for homestead property tax credits, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

### Free Alzheimer's Workshops

The Alzheimer's Association will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 19, to present workshops on memory loss/understanding behaviors (March 12) and community resources/legal & financial matters (March 19). Light refreshments will be served. To preregister for the workshops, please call 800-337-3827.

### Shopping

Romulus senior citizens are invited to ride the Center's van on Monday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m., to shop at Wal-Mart and Farmer Jack. Cost of transportation is just \$1.50 per person. Sign up at the Center to reserve your seat.

### March Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by attending a special luncheon on Monday, March 17, at 12 p.m. The cost of \$5.50 per person includes a meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, dessert, and a beverage. Advance sign-up (at the Center) is required.

### Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- **Greek Town**  
(March 11; \$12);
- **Soaring Eagle**  
(March 15; \$26);
- **Windsor Racetrack Slots**  
(April 25; \$5);

- **Little River/Soaring Eagle**  
(April 30; \$105);
- **Holland at Tulip Time**  
(May 6; \$69);
- **Windsor Racetrack Slots**  
(May 6; \$5);
- **Greek Town Casino**  
(May 18; \$12);
- **Kalloway's**  
(June 4; \$54); and
- **Titanic (exhibit, Imax, lunch, more)**  
(August 21; \$63).

Note: Deposits – due at the time of sign-up – reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

### Ask an Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, at the Center. Walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) welcome.

### Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, March 17, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable (\$5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

### Walk for Fun and Exercise

For safe, indoor walking at your own pace, ride the Romulus Senior Center's van to the Wayne County Community College campus on Haggerty Road on the following dates: Tuesday, March 11; Thursday, March 13; Tuesday, March 18; Thursday, March 20; Monday, March 24; Wednesday, March 26; and Friday, March 28. All departure times are 3 p.m.

Note: The Romulus Senior Center strongly recommends that seniors consult a physician before beginning any new exercise program.

### Open Swimming for Senior Citizens

Open swimming for Romulus senior citizens age 60 and over (proof of age/residence required) will be held at Romulus High School's new swimming complex each Tuesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is just \$2 per session or \$40 for an all-year pass.

To participate, all swimmers must preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education office, located at 39000 Superior. For more information, call 734-532-1956. □

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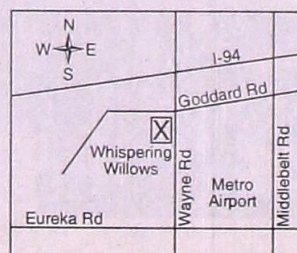
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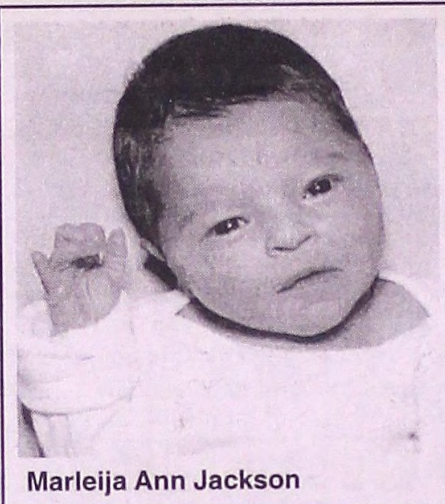
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# The Stork Arrived

## Marleija Ann Jackson

**Marleija Ann Jackson**

Proudly announcing the birth of their first child, Marleija Ann Jackson, are Tommy W. Jackson III and Melissa A. Tamm of Romulus, Michigan.

Marleija Ann was born at Botsford Hospital (Farmington Hills, MI) at 5:57 p.m. on Monday, December 30, 2002, weighing in at 6 pounds even and measuring 20 inches in length.

Especially excited about the new arrival are first-time grandparents James and Kathi Newland (Wayne, MI), Doug and Sandy Buchanon (Wayne, MI), M. Sgt. Tommy W. Jackson, Jr., and Ms. Faye (Kileen, TX), and Mark Tamm (Dearborn Heights, MI). □



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# The Stork Arrived

## Thelma M. Funchar

Thelma M. Funchar of Moscow Township, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, February 23, 2003, at the age of 82.

The former Romulus resident was born in Woodard, Oklahoma, on Monday, November 15, 1920.

Thelma is survived by 2 sons, Steven Funchar (Flat Rock, MI) and Andrew Funchar, Jr. (Ypsilanti, MI); a daughter, Susan Grant (North Adams, MI); 4 brothers, James Hamlin (Bartlesville, OK), William Hamlin (Buffalo, OK), Max Ham-

lin (Villeplatte, LA), and Samuel Hamlin (Enid, OK); 2 sisters, Margarete Stout (TX) and Patricia Clifford (Copan, OK); 6 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Andrew Funchar, preceded her in death on July 22, 1993.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, February 26, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Father Alexander J. Wyrwal (St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston, MI) officiating. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery (Detroit, MI).

## Carolyn Raspberry

Carolyn Raspberry of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2003, at the age of 61.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born Wednesday, December 10, 1941.

Surviving Carolyn are her father, Jimmie C. (Wandra) Raspberry; a daughter, Lisa Raspberry; 3 siblings, Rosalind Raspberry, Kenneth Raspberry, and Rose (Howard) Fisher; an aunt, Georgia Jacobs; and a host of nieces, nephews,

cousins, and friends. Among those predeceasing her were her mother, Cleo (Rincher) Raspberry; a sister, Brenda Raspberry; and a brother, Jimmie Raspberry, Jr.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 18, at Pleasant Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church (Belleville, MI), with the Reverend Andre L. Spivey officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

## Rose Wojcik

Rose Wojcik of Van Buren Township, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, February 16, 2003, at the age of 92.

The native of Detroit, Michigan - born Friday, July 29, 1910 - was a member of the Polish Alliance, and enjoyed making Christmas bulbs, crocheting, baking, and preparing family dinners.

Surviving Rose are 2 sons, Richard Wojcik (Belleville, MI) and Leonard Wojcik (Grass Lake, MI); 2 sisters, Jean Nowicky (Warren, MI) and Cecelia Lash

(Detroit); 5 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Predeceasing her were her husband, Felix Wojcik, and several brothers.

A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, February 19, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Alexander J. Wyrwal (St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston) officiating. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery (Detroit, MI). Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). □

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